12. (once amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein producing the [~~derivatized~~] carboxyalkylated reduced polysaccharide is achieved at a temperature of less than about 40 °C.

13. A method according to claim [~~5~~] 1, wherein the iron oxide is superparamagnetic

18. A reduced polysaccharide iron oxide complex produced according to the method of claim 1, wherein the produced [~~such~~] complex [~~being~~] is stable at a temperature of at least 100 °C.

will need to examine the unexpected results

*19. (once amended) A reduced carboxyalkylated polysaccharide iron oxide complex [~~according to claim 18, such~~] wherein the produced complex [~~being~~] is stable at a temperature of about 121 °C.

20. (once amended) A reduced polysaccharide iron oxide complex according to claim 19, [~~such~~] wherein the produced complex [~~being~~] is stable at a temperature of at least about 121 °C for a period of time effective to sterilize the complex.

21. (cancel) A reduced polysaccharide iron oxide complex according to claim 18, wherein the reduced polysaccharide is derivatized.

22. (once amended) A reduced polysaccharide iron oxide complex according to claim [~~21~~] 18, wherein the [~~derivatized~~] carboxyalkylated reduced polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of a [~~carboxyalkyl~~] carboxymethyl, carboxyethyl and carboxypropyl reduced polysaccharide.

23. (cancel) A reduced polysaccharide iron oxide complex according to claim 22, wherein the carboxyalkyl is selected from the group consisting of carboxymethyl, carboxyethyl, and carboxypropyl.

24. (once amended) A reduced polysaccharide iron oxide complex according to claim [~~23~~] 22, wherein the reduced polysaccharide is a reduced dextran.

25. (once amended) A reduced polysaccharide iron complex according to claim 22, wherein the [~~derivatized~~] carboxyalkylated reduced dextran is a carboxymethyl reduced dextran.

26. (twice amended) A reduced polysaccharide iron oxide complex according to claim 24, wherein [~~the amount of derivatization of~~] the carboxyalkylated reduced dextran [~~is~~] comprises at least about 750 micromole of carboxyl groups per gram of polysaccharide.

27. (twice amended) A reduced polysaccharide iron oxide complex according to claim 26, wherein [~~the level of derivatization of~~] the carboxyalkylated reduced dextran [~~is~~] comprises at least about 900 micromole of carboxyl groups per gram of polysaccharide.